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Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1972

K.M. HARDING,
M.D., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.,
A.K.C.

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Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge.

November, 1973.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972.

Vital Statistics

There were 124 babies born during the year.

There has been a slight rise in the total population. The Standardised Birth Rate has fallen to 18.9 per 1000 population and the national figure has also dropped from 16.0 to 14.8.

There was one still birth and our Still Birth Rate is therefore 8 per 1000 live and still births. The national Still Birth Rate is 12.

Four young children under the age of one week died. Two of these deaths were in babies born with severe congenital disabilities.

The death of an eagerly awaited and much wanted newborn baby is a terrible blow for the parents.

The problems of preventing severe congenital conditions and of tending young infants who have been born in a delicate state of health are the subject of much medical research work and the new discoveries already made have benefitted many babies and enabled them after a precarious start in life to develop into normal healthy children.

The record of child care in this country is one of which we can be proud. This is reflected in the Infant Mortality Rate which during the last decade has fallen from 21.7 to 17 per 1000 population.

90 deaths were recorded in Woodbridge people and there was therefore an excess of 34 births over deaths during the year. The Standardised Death Rate was 10.9 (National figure 12.1) per 1000 population. In the table of Causes of Death there were no significant changes compared with the previous year.

54% of the deaths occurred in persons aged 75 years and over.

Two diseases which are causing much concern today are Cancer of the Lung and Ischaemic Heart disease (Coronary Thrombosis).

Heavy cigarette smoking is now well authenticated as the major cause of Lung Cancer. This modern epidemic disease of modern times claimed 31,659 victims in the year.

By comparison 7002 people died in the same year as the result of road accidents. The deaths from Lung Cancer continue to rise, and despite constant warnings people continue to smoke.

Ischaemic Heart disease, or to give it its popular name Coronary Thrombosis is another epidemic disease of our times. In 1971 83,036 men and 60,088 women died from this complaint. The mean age of the male victims was 68.5 and they lost 552 years of life per 10,000 population. The stress of modern living, excess animal fat in the diet, lack of exercise and heavy smoking have all been named as causes of Coronary disease. The inhalation of Carbon monoxide by heavy smokers is a factor which has recently been established by Research Workers as being especially damaging to the heart.

There are three contents of tobacco smoke which affect man. The first of these is Nicotine which is the narcotic which "hooks" heavy smokers and makes them reluctant to give up smoking. The second of these are the Carcinogens or Cancer producing substances present in the smoke and the third is the Carbon monoxide content produced as a result of the burning of tobacco.

Hitherto cigar and pipe smokers were thought to be at much less risk then cigarette smokers, but it is now known that if they inhale they are at considerable risk from the effects of Carbon monoxide.

The habit of smoking, therefore, is responsible for the deaths of many people from these two epidemic diseases of our time.

Another health problem which gives cause for concern at the present time is Housing.

This is a National problem brought about by the simple fact that there are not enough houses available for those who require them. This scarcity has has caused high prices with the attendant difficulties of obtaining mortgages and high interest rates on home loans. One has the greatest sympathy for the many young people of today wishing to get married who are unable to do so because they are quite unable to find anywhere to set up home.

In Woodbridge a considerable amount of private housing development has taken place over the past few years, and although no Council houses were completed in 1972, during the 27 post war years 461 Council houses have been built.

At the present time there are about 200 people on the Council Housing Waiting List.

Some houses in the town have come into a state of serious disrepair and have had to be condemned as unfit for human habitation. A number of these have been demolished or closed afther their inhabitants have been rehoused; and others have been rehabilitated after very extensive repairs and renovations.

Owing to the shortage of Council accommodation, at the present time, eleven unfit and twenty six substandard houses still have people living in them. It is hoped that Council houses will be available for these families in the near future so that they may now enjoy a 1973 standard of housing.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Snowden, for the able and conscientious way in which he has performed his many duties, and to the Clerk, Engineer and Surveyor and other members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of District	1112 acres	Population	7620
No. of inhabited houses ...	2784	Product of New Penny Rate ...	£8126.

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

K.M. HARDING, M.D.,D.P.H.,
M.F.C.M.,
A.K.C.

Public Health Inspector:

D.W. SNOWDEN, F.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	51	62	113
Illegitimate	5	6	11
			124

Crude Birth Rate per 1000 population	16. 3
Area Comparability Factor	1.16
Standardised Birth Rate (Crude Rate x 1.16) =	18. 9
Birth Rate England & Wales	14. 8

Still Births	1
Still Birth Rate, this area, per 1,000 total live & still births	8
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales per 1,000 total live and still births	12

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

3 male and 1 female	Total	4
Infant Mortality Rate - (deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births)		32
Infant Mortality Rate - England & Wales		17

Deaths At All Ages

Male	37
Female	53
Total	90

Crude Death Rate per 100 population	11. 8
Area Comparability Factor	.92
Standardised Death Rate (Crude Rate x .92)	10. 9
Death Rate England & Wales	12. 1

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total 1972	Total 1971
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	6	8	5
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	-	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	2	-	2	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2	-
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	13	24	25
Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	-	1	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	9	13	10
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	5	7	6
Pneumonia	1	4	5	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	-	3
Asthma	-	1	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of the Digestive System	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	-	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	-	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	1
All Other Accidents	-	1	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	2	3	-
Total	37	53	90	84

Deaths 1972

Breakdown by Age Groups

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	1	1	2
4 weeks to 1 year	2	-	2
1 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	3	3
55 - 64 years	5	8	13
65 - 74 years	10	11	21
75 and over	19	30	49
	37	53	90

Infectious Diseases

Notifications Received

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

Vaccinations and Immunisations

	Primary Courses	Boosters
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	67	26
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	85
Tetanus	5	50
Poliomyelitis Salk	-	-
Poliomyelitis Sabin	65	138
Measles	57	-
Rubella	26	-

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

by the

Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Statistics for 1972

Number of inhabited houses including 519 Council-owned dwellings according to the Rate Books at 31st March, 1973.		2784
Average number of persons per house		2.74
Number of houses completed by the Council during the year		Nil
Number of houses built by private enterprise or Housing Associations during the year		70
Total of post-war Council houses completed to 31.12.72		461
Number of House Improvement Grant applications approved in 1972:-		
a) Discretionary Improvements (i) Owner-occupied properties - 8	14	23
(ii) Tenanted properties - 6		
b) Standard (i) Owner-occupied properties - 8	9	
(ii) Tenanted properties - 1		

General Inspection

a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	114
b) Number found to be unsatisfactory in some respect	58
c) Number occupied in respect of which Demolition or Clearance Orders had been made	Nil

Housing Repairs Instigated

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	34
Number of Scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	5

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil

Individually Unfit Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made in 1972	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders made previously	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Secs. 16 & 18 Housing Act, 1957)	1
Number of informal undertakings not to re-let accepted	2
Number of families re-housed from unfit dwellings	3

House Improvement Grants

Details of applications approved during 1972 are given in the statistical section of this Report. However, it may be of interest to note brief details of the nineteen improvement schemes which were completed and paid during the year, as follows:-

Discretionary Improvement Grants

Five owner-occupied and three tenanted dwellings were improved with the aid of this type of grant, which averaged £790.

Standard Grants

Eleven dwellings, comprising eight owner-occupied and three tenanted premises, were provided with the following total number of amenities:-

10 fixed baths or showers in a bathroom

11 wash hand basins

5 sinks

11 hot and cold water supplies at one, two or three points

9 internal water closets

The above schemes included two new bathroom additions and one dwelling where the outbuildings were converted to form a bathroom.

The average grant paid per house was approximately £205.

Qualification Certificates

Five Certificates were applied for and issued by the Council to landlords of improved dwellings to enable the controlled tenancies to be regulated, leading to a phased rent increase after the registration of a new and fair rent with the Rent Officer. In two instances repair and improvement work was carried out to enable properties to satisfy the qualifying conditions.

Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings

During the year, no tenant asked the Council to take action to compel their landlord to modernise the property which they occupied.

Pail Closet Conversions

The number of pail closets converted to water-borne sanitation during 1972 was 11, which figure includes 7 properties connected to the town's sewerage system for the first time.

Two Statutory Notices were served on properties requiring their owners to carry out the necessary conversion work.

By the end of the year the number of occupied properties still served by a pail closet was reduced to twelve.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No formal action was found necessary during the year in respect of any premises let-in-lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.

Public Health and Housing Conditions

(i) Seventy-four complaints were received from members of the public during 1972 and included such items as choked and defective drainage, accummulations of refuse, offensive smells, leaking eavesgutters and downpipes, dampness, condensation and mould growth, overhanging trees and hedges, the burning of garden or trade refuse, noise from barking dogs, road breakers and late night parties, housing defects as well as many notifications of rats, mice, wasps, flies and other insect pests

(ii) Twenty-eight informal notices were served during the year to either abate a nuisance or secure essential repairs. Twenty-six notices were complied with during the year.

(iii) Reasonable co-operation was obtained fron landlords and their managing Agents.

(iv) Over 1300 inspections or re-inspections for all purposes were carried out during the year.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT

Eighteen premises are licenced to store a total of 47,704 gallons of petroleum spirit in the Urban District

RODENT CONTROL

Number of premises treated during:

		1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
a) Dwelling houses	-	92	76	51	55	82
b) Other premises	-	39	15	Nil	2	14
Total treatments carried out	-	280	289	119	103	149

Eradication of Vermin

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
a) Premises disinfested	Nil	3	2	2	Nil
b) Wasp nests destroyed	33	169	132	77	63

WATER SUPPLY

(i) Fifteen samples of drinking water were collected for bacteriological examination during the year, comprising seven samples from two wells serving properties where the occupants had no alternative supply, and eight from various mains taps throughout the district. One of the wells became an unsatisfactory supply but both wells have now fallen into disuse and the occupied dwellings which they served now have mains water.

(ii) All the samples of Town water were quite satisfactory.

(iii) During the year the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking kindly submitted details from twelve reports on routine bacteriological water sampling in the district. All were satisfactory.

River Deben Sampling

Thirty-eight samples of water were collected from the River in the vicinity of the Dock, off the river wall and at Kyson Point and examined bacteriologically during the year. The results indicated the presence of large numbers of bacteria of intestinal origin. Salmonella organisms were isolated from one sample collected at Kyson Point.

Model Yacht Pond

During the year four routine checks were made on the quality of the River water in the pond. No salmonella organisms were isolated from any of the samples.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is sold to the public is 62.

The following gives a breakdown of the type of food premises:-

Bakers, Bakery shops	2
Butchers	6
Confectioners	7
Delicatessens	1
Departmental Stores	1
Fish Merchants	1
Fish and Chip Shops	3
Greengrocers, Fruiterers	4
Grocers (including small general stores)	9
Licensed Premises (hotels, public houses, off-licences)	14
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Supermarkets, Food Halls, Self-Service Stores	6

Food Inspection

During the year the following items were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned, under the 'voluntary surrender' procedure:-

1 - 12 lbs. 14 ozs. Tin Cooked Ham
1 - stone Mackerel
15 lbs. Skinned Catfish Filletts
556 Frozen Food Packets weighing approx. 161 lbs.
1 - 6 lb. Tin Corned Beef.

Total Weight = 1 cwt. 96 lbs. 14 ozs.

A total of nine Certificates were issued to the three food businesses who voluntarily surrendered the above food for destruction.

Note:- The above amount is once again very small in comparison with the total quantity of food sold in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 & 1962
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

Thirty-nine food premises or mobile foodshops received an inspection during the year. Informal action was taken wherever items were found to require attention.

No serious contravention was noted and no legal proceedings were instituted during 1972.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Four complaints was received during the year. These included foreign material in a bread roll, metal in a pork pie and a spider in a tin of carrots. In each case the incidents were investigated and preventive measures taken at the manufacturer's premises.

Sale of Unfit or Unsound Food

A single complaint was received and alleged the sale of food affected by mould growth.

Ice-Cream

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream was 18, at the end of the year.

Three premises are also registered under this Section for the manufacture of sausages or the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

Type	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories without power	1	-	-	-
Factories with power	32	12	-	-
TOTALS	33	12	-	-

Outworkers on Register - Two

National Assistance Act 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was found necessary during 1972.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

ANNUAL REPORT

a) Registrations and General Inspections:

CLASS of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at 31.12.72	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
OFFICES	7	42	10
RETAIL SHOPS	4	76	21
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	Nil	3	1
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC	3	12	Nil
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	14	133	32

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act = 89

Note: "Registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by the local authority ... and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

"General inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purposes of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises.

b) Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed in Registered Premises:

CLASS of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed					
	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
OFFICES	280	289	330	331	320	301
RETAIL SHOPS	328	341	328	325	323	340
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	21	22	26	18	23	20
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	42	48	70	70	70	72
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	9	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	680	709	754	744	736	733
TOTAL MALES	302	314	339	328	324	315
" FEMALES	378	395	415	416	412	418

c) Analysis of Contraventions:

Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	4
5	Overcrowding	2
6	Items relating to heating etc.	16
7	Ventilation	1
8	Natural and artificial lighting	8
9	Items relating to sanitary conveniences	12
10	Items relating to washing facilities	10
12	Accommodation for outdoor clothing	2
15	Eating facilities in shop premises	2
16	Condition of floors, stairs and passages	2
24	Provision of first-aid facilities	22
50	No Abstract of the Act displayed	23
	TOTAL	104

d) Reported Accidents

Only one accident was notified during the year.

This occurred in registered Shop premises when a female employee strained her right foot when tightening thick string on a carton of clothing. Following an investigation no further action was taken in the matter.
